88. Needs of the Vaikam Municipality.

Mr. K. N. Govinda Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Vaikam) said that the surroundings of the Vaikam temple were kept in a most insanitary condition, owing to the deposit of filth and used leaves on the road side every day by the temple servants —remnants of daily feasts which are a feature of the temple. Though the Municipal Council expended a large amount of money in collecting the filth, etc., thrown outside from the temple in a place on the eastern side of the temple called Arakuttipuram and in removing the same therefrom to distant places, still the remnants of such filth decayed and stinked in certain places, and during the rainy season they were carried to a canal close to the culvert on the eastern side of the temple rendering the whole place most insanitary. The canal was known as Perumchilavu *todu* and it extended from Ittipuzha river on the north to Puttantodu on the south. Besides, encroachments were made by the owners of the adjoining paddy fields obstructing the free flow of water even during the rainy season. The Member observed that, if that *todu* was deepened after removing the encroachments thereon, the filth of the town could be carried along the *todu* to the *kayal via* Puttantodu. He then submitted that it had been brought to the notice of the Government at previous sessions of the Assembly that, owing to the absence of facilities for the free flow of the Kaniyan canal water, many paddy fields had suffered, and he also referred to the promises made by the Government on those occasions that, in mitigation of the hardship to the ryots, Government would construct a canal, but regretted that nothing had so far been done. He urged that the proposed construction of the *todu* should not be further put off, especially because owing to the lack of drainage facilities, diseases like malaria and elephantiasis were of daily occurrence.

The Member next pointed out that the major portion of the time of the municipal sweepers was taken up with the sweeping of the surroundings of the temple and with the removal of the filth, etc., that accumulated on the eastern side and at Arakuttipuram. He stated that not less than a sum of Rs. 200 was being spent on that account by the Municipal Council which was an unnecessary drain on the Council fund. He therefore submitted that it was but reasonable that the Devaswom Department should meet the expenditure from its fund or at least undertake the removal of the filth of the temple now thrown out into the street into some distant and unobjectionable place. He requested that either of these courses might be adopted by the Devaswom Department.

He then stated that a rubbish depôt for the town was necessary and requested that Government might be pleased to transfer a portion of the adjoining *kayal poramboke* to the Council for the purpose or to acquire for the municipality a small site at a minimum cost.

The next point the Member brought to the notice of Government was that, as the drain on the western side of the temple was not properly constructed, the *kadi* water from the temple did not flow freely but stopped in a culvert on the road giving rise to very bad stench. He therefore prayed that proper drainage arrangements might be made for removing the *kadi* water flowing from the Vaikam temple.

Lastly, the Member submitted that there was a three feet trace from the landing place going to the east of the T. B. and that, on account of encroachments, it could not be identified. The Agricultural Department took possession of it and closed it on the southern side. What the Member desired was that it should be converted into a road and extended up to Puttantodu. He also presented a memorial on the subject.

Dewan's reply.—With regard to the Perumchilavu canal, it is reported that the encroachments have been removed and it is estimated that the work will cost about Rs. 3,000. When the estimate comes, it will be sanctioned.

With regard to the Kaniyan canal, an estimate has been got ready and funds will be provided in the budget for 1100.

In regard to the channel to take away the *kadi* from the Vaikam temple to the Puttantodu, I understand that the work is now in progress and that there is a budget provision of Rs. 1,500 this year. The work will be completed soon.

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You next suggested that the Devaswom Department should bear the charges incurred by your Council in keeping the surroundings of the temple in a sanitary condition. The Devaswom Commissioner says that he does not agree with you and that his Department need not incur the expenditure. He points out that the Municipal Council levies fees for sheds put up on the road leading from the temple and that the Municipal Council should attend to the sanitation of the road. He also points out that this is the practice in other places. I think that what the Devaswom Commissioner says is right, and that you will have to conserve the immediate neighbourhood of the temple and see to its proper sanitation.

Then you require a site for the rubbish depôt, and for that you want a portion of the *kayal poramboke* site to be made over to you. I do not think that your proposal will be approved by the Sanitary Commissioner. It is the last place one can think of for a rubbish depôt. A rubbish depôt should be on high ground. If the Council will point out an unobjectionable site, the question of acquiring it will be considered.

As regards the road by the side of the camp shed to the site acquired for the Agricultural Department and extending it to Puttantodu, I shall ask the Chief Engineer to have it inspected and to send up a report.

89. Needs of the Kottayam Town.

Mr. K. K. Thomas, B. A., B. L., (Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam) represented that the Kanjikkuzhi canal should be widened and deepened. He added that the work was taken up some thirty years ago and that some money was spent over it without any material benefit. He also referred to the Dewan's reply to the representation on the subject made at the Seventeenth Session of the Assembly to the effect that the matter would be investigated. The Member thought that the work could be done without much cost.

He next prayed for the extension of the Kanjikkuzhi-Kollad road up to the Kottur river, as the road would be of much use to the people of Kollad where they had already opened a ryots' road up to Kottur, known as the Pallam-Kollad road. About three furlongs of land on the Kottayam side alone need be acquired for the purpose and this could be done without much cost. He added that the Dewan had inspected the place already.

Thirdly, the Member requested that the Cutcherry and Market landings might be improved. For that purpose, he suggested that land up to the junction might be immediately acquired, lest it should be sold in auction for shop sites, that a road parallel to the canal might be opened on either bank, and that the canal itself might be deepened. Much congestion was being felt in the vicinity of the market. He appreciated that the Government had been recently effecting some improvements to relieve the popular grievance ; but it was inadequate.

Fourthly, he wanted some groynes to be constructed at Tazhattangadi as the road passed along the brink of the Minachil river and breaches were frequent on the land between the river and the road. He pointed out that, if Government thought that walls were costly, the lands might be registered to private owners on condition of their constructing retaining walls.

Fifthly, he urged the necessity for reconstructing the Nagampadam bridge in view of the increasing motor and cart traffic on the Main Central road.

Lastly, he prayed that all the civil courts be located in one place to give greater convenience to the litigant public. That was a long-felt necessity. He pointed out that land was acquired for the purpose during Sir P. Rajagopalachari's administration. The Accommodation Committee had also recommended the location of all courts in the same place. The Member suggested that temporary sheds might be put up immediately and that a *pucka* building might be raised subsequently, in which case Government could save about Rs. 300 now paid as rent for the buildings.

Dewan's reply.—As regards the Kanjikkuzhi canal, you say that that work was promised at the Seventeenth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, and that it has not been taken up. The Chief Engineer says that the work will be investigated and an estimate called for.

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